

REMARKS

Receipt of the Office Action of March 30, 2004 is gratefully acknowledged.

The drawings have been objected to because they lack certain reference numerals.

Proposed corrections to Figs. 1, 3 and 4a are being presented herewith for the examiner's approval. Upon the examiner's approval, the formal drawings will reflect the proposed corrections and will then be filed.

The abstract has been objected to. Accordingly, an amended abstract is being presented herewith, along with other proposed amendments to the specification to correct several errors noted by the examiner, and others and to propose a new title.

Claims 1 - 9 have been presented for examination. These have been objected to and rejected as follows: 1) claims 1, 4, 7 and 9 have been objected to because of typographical informalities; 2) claims 4 - 6 have been rejected as anticipated under 35 USC 102(b) by McConnell; 3) claims 1 - 3 as unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over "Applicant's prior art of fig. 1" in view of Dailey et al; and 4) claims 7 - 9 as unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over "Applicant's prior art of fig. 1" and McConnell in view of Dailey et al.

In a bona fide effort to advance prosecution to a successful conclusion, claims 4 - 6 have been canceled and the subject matter of claim 7 added to claim 1 as amended. This leaves claims 1 - 3, 8 and 9. These claims reflect changes which address and overcome the objection noted in 1) above. Also rendered moot are rejections 2) and 3) leaving for consideration only rejection 4).

Combined claims 1 and 7 define an arrangement of structural parts which significantly improves the operation of a harvesting machine, such as a combine. As has been

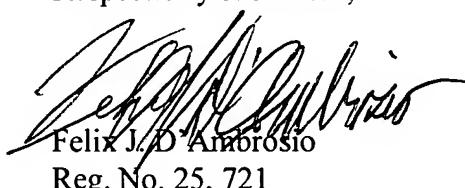
noted in the background discussion in the application, the problem that this invention addresses is unique to combines (harvesting machines). A copy of the two page print-out from the inventor's home page titled: "Cleaning System Repair Kit" is being submitted herewith. These two pages should prove instructing in better understanding the invention.

The solution to the problems noted is provided in a easy but effective manner by the present invention. The spacers provide for additional clearance and the flexible flap member provides the means for controlling the gap that is created by the spacers.

McConnell does relate to a harvester. But he does not disclose the spacers in combination with the flexible flap member to control the gap. The flexible sheets are *not* intended for gap control at all, and Dailey et al says nothing about the subject. Applicant is not the inventor of spacers strips or flexible members. He is the inventor of an arrangement of spacer strips in combination with a flexible sheet to control gap opening (extent) created by the use of the spacers. Claim 1 as amended clearly sets forth all the necessary components of the invention and it is respectfully submitted that neither McConnell nor Dailey et al, however combined, do not address the problem being addressed by the present invention, so that their combination does not amount to the present invention as set forth in claim 1 as amended.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and re-examination are respectfully requested and claims 1 - 3, 8 and 9 found allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

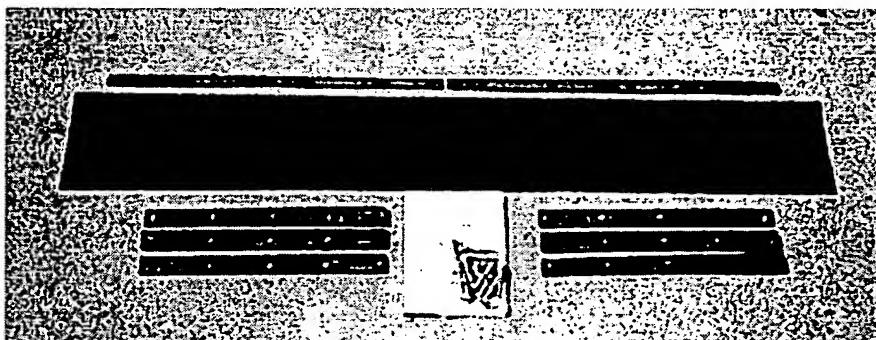


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Cleaning System Repair Kit

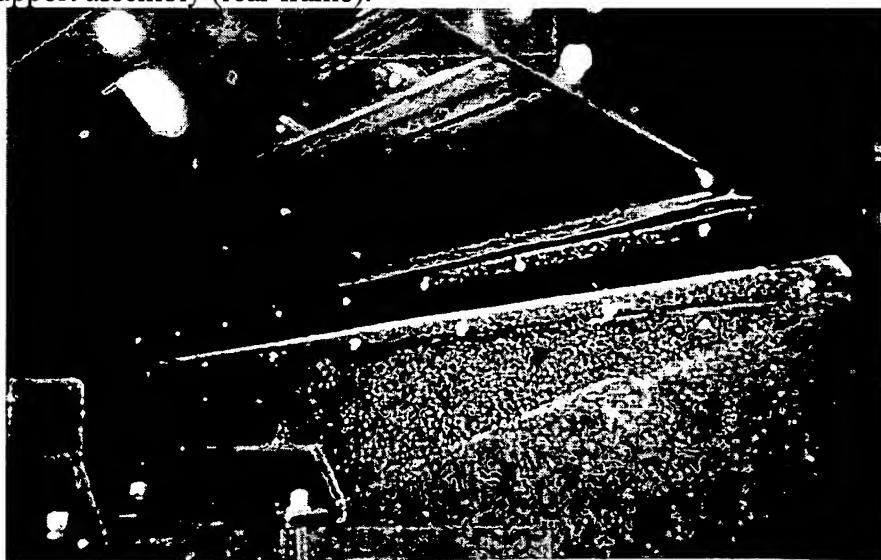
Presented By Heartland Repair Service



The Cleaning System Repair Kit from Heartland Repair Service of Ross, ND provides solutions to the problems associated with the cleaning systems in 1680, 1688, 2188, and 2388 CaseIH long sieve combines. This Kit solves problems such as broken sieves, bearing support failure, broken drive shaft, frequent bushing failures, tailings auger trough damage, cracked chaffer rails, broken bolts, noise or any other damage to the cleaning system not associated with normal wear and tear.

Specializing on these combines Gordon Ennen Jr., owner of Heartland Repair Service and inventor of the Cleaning System Repair Kit, has dedicated years of research into solving the problems with the cleaning systems on these machines. After disassembling and inspecting many different combines, Gordon has determined that there are multiple contact points in these systems that are responsible for the repeated failure of the cleaning system components.

On the forward stroke the front corners of chaffer rails are hitting the front of the housing and on the rear stroke the sides of the chaffer rails are hitting the corners of the auger bed. On the forward stroke the shoe is hitting the tailings auger upper cover and on the rear stroke the shoe is hitting the steering axle support assembly (rear frame).



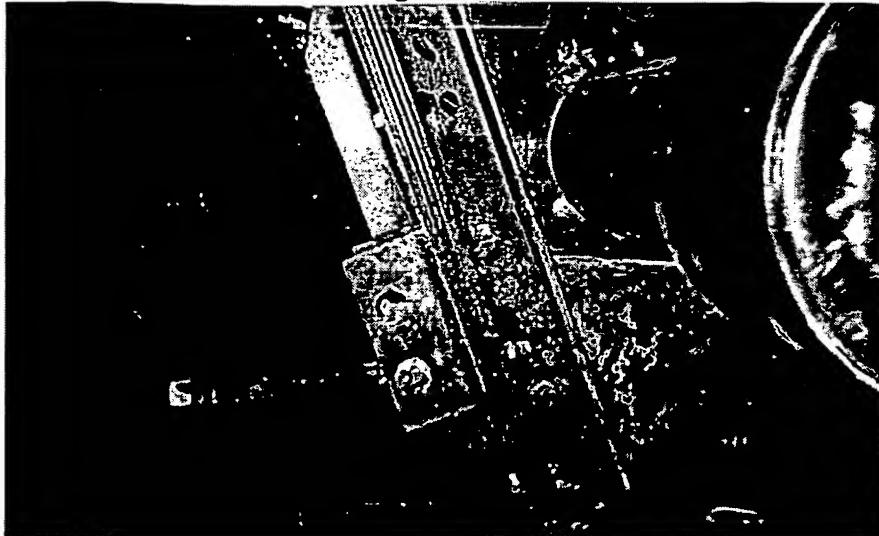
This research has lead to the invention of the Cleaning System Repair Kit, designed and tested in the wheat fields of Northwestern North Dakota. This "patent pending" Kit will fix your cleaning system problems, ending costly repairs and down time during harvest. What this C. S. R. Kit does is move the steering axle support assembly back, so that the shoe assembly can move over the top of it, and it shows where or how to modify the chaffer rail

corners, the corners of the auger bed and the tailings auger upper cover.

Based on his research, Gordon has also determined that the majority of these combines have interference problems internally. The only way to assess the extent of the damage is to disassemble and inspect all of

the cleaning system components. The amount of damage varies greatly between each individual combine. The Cleaning System Repair Kit is highly recommended for all of the models listed.

To check for contact at the chaffer rail, remove the left side panel at the grates. Reach your right arm into the combine. Put your hand under the corner of the auger bed. Using your thumb check the metal strip, that bolts the rubber strip to the rail, for a dent. If you can feel a dent in the metal strip there is contact with the corner of the auger bed.



To check for contact at the shoe assembly, look on the bottom of the shoe where it comes over the steering axle, check for screw heads that are worn off and check the corners of the tailings trough to see if they are cracked. Then go under the combine and look up at the rear of the tailings trough where it bolts to the steering axle, check for grooves or holes in the trough. If you find any of this damage the shoe is hitting.

This Kit can be installed at the farm and requires no special tools. Installation time is approximately eight hours.

The cost of the Cleaning System Repair Kit is \$270.00 plus shipping and handling.

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